

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action mailed August 13, 2003. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 12-17, and 21-25 are cancelled, claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10-11 and 18-20 are amended and claims 26-33 are newly presented. Claims 2-4, 6, 8, 10-11, 18-20 and 26-33 are now pending in this application. It is noted that Applicants have amended and cancelled the above-identified claims solely to advance prosecution of the instant application and to obtain allowance on allowable claims at the earliest possible date. Accordingly, no admission may be inferred from the amendments of claims herein. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the originally filed claims in the future.

In the office action, claims 6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated, however, that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 6 and 8 to including the limitations of claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these independent claims are now in condition for allowance.

Amended claims 2-4, 10-11 and 18-20 depend from claim 6 and recite additional limitations. Similarly, new claims 26-33 depend from claim 8 and recite additional limitations. Applicant respectfully submits that these dependant claims are also now in condition for allowance.



Application No. 09/920,924

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen W. Groenke
Registration No. 42,608

Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
4000 Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 USA
Telephone: (612) 492-7000
Facsimile: (612) 492-7077

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